

edge temperance ; and to temperance patience ; and to patience godliness ; and to godliness brotherly kindness ; and to brotherly kindness charity." Here is the work ; now for the promise in verse 10, 11, "For if ye do these things ye shall never fall, for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

CENTRALIZATION

W. H. MILLER

We are told that the sun is the center of the solar system, a system great in extent and number of constituent bodies. These bodies all move in accordance with certain laws. These laws reveal to us the necessity of law, and of working in accordance with authorized law. The complexity of the solar system shows to us the need of a focal point of power in the material universe. We may be able to discern a center of gravity in our earth. Beholding the universe as the creation of God, I discern his wisdom and will in the establishment of these centers of power, both major and minor. Thus I see the will of God in the laws relating to the material universe.

One thing we need as a church is more centralization of forces and system in work. 'Tis true our needs may be many and hard to meet at present, but one thing that demands close attention is the bringing of all our strength together, hence need of centralization and systematized work. The strength of our nation lies in the fact that we have a strong central authority or government, and not a loose confederation. The progress of certain churches is due to systematic effort. Can not we learn a useful lesson from these civil and ecclesiastic examples? True some one may cry out with terror: creed, but it does not appall me in the least. A minister asked me some time ago what the tenets of our church were. To have said the Bible would have been an eluding of his question, but a few distinctive doctrines stated satisfied him. To me a common unwritten faith smacks as much of humanism as though it were written.

Tho we be one in faith we need greater uniformity in practice and church work. This evolves the thought of more system along the line of church work in our fraternity. As a means to an end I care not what you may call the desired instrument, a confession, rules of faith, church manual or discipline. In this we have set forth our belief, and conception of church work from local to general.

From the local church as a unit we ascend to the conferences as higher organizations. The local church: How organized, its officers civil and ecclesiastic, the duties of officers, the work of local church, relation to other congregations

and to the conferences should be set forth.

The conferences: Composition and organization, sphere of work and nature of work, its authority should be set forth.

Some plan along this line it seems to me is one thing we need to give us greater unity and vitality as a church. It will devise a way to take care of weak congregations, and adjust local misunderstandings. It will, to a great extent put a stop to the use of the church organ as an advertising medium for the "ministerial tramps" who wend their way to us, create lots of trouble and then fly to other folds. It will lay restraint and responsibility on those who assume the sponsorship of such as come to them, and are then lauded to the skies, but of a sudden they have no more to tell us of their mighty men whom they have added to the fold. While leaving the greatest latitude to the local churches a discipline would invest our conferences not only with a semblance but with actual authority. It will do more, it will clothe our conferences with a greater dignity than that of a mass convention, and such questions as arose at our last National Conference in regard to rights and privileges of persons not delegates will not be thought of for a minute.

Let me conclude by saying that one of our greatest needs is the centralization of authority and the systematizing of church work, uniformity of work, thorough organization, ability to hold ground already taken, effective work in our conventions, unity of church, and extension of our bodies; these require it. It would hold the ministry amenable to a certain authority, hence be conducive to the purity of the ministry. I am glad one congregation I serve sees the necessity of a written discipline. A written discipline. I favor it. We need it. I hope the coming conference will take action along this line.

Brighton, Ind.

SPEAK THE TRUTH

C. H. WETHERBE

In Eph. 4:25 we read: "Wherefore, putting away falsehood, speak ye truth each one with his neighbor." Many people, even those who believe in uprightness of character, incline to the opinion that there are occasions when one is justified in telling a falsehood. They say that there are times when it is impossible for one to be strictly truthful. But while it is true that one may come to occasions when it seems very difficult to tell the exact truth about one's self, or about certain matters, no one should allow himself to think that he is justified in departing from the exact truth, so far as he understands. Paul's teaching, which is the teaching of Christ, is that one is under the highest obligation to speak the truth always and everywhere.

Christians, who are the professed representatives of Christ, who is Truth personified, should never misrepresent the truth by speaking falsehood. For such ones to speak untruths is to practically acknowledge that falsehood is of greater importance, is more useful, more helpful, than the truth is. Dr. R. F. Horton of London says: "Are you a Christian? Are you born again? Then when these difficulties come, as they may to any one of us, you may appeal fearlessly to your Father in heaven, who is the Father of Lights, and you will turn instinctly to Jesus Christ, who is himself the truth and your whole spirit will say to him: 'It is thou, O Lord, who hast told me not to lie and I dare not lie; whatever consequences come keep my lips true.' And the Spirit will tell you what to say in that time of your fierce trial, and no lie shall stain the lips which are consecrated to God, and, being holy, offer up to him the daily sacrifice of praise and love. He told us not to lie; he will teach us how to avoid even the exigency." A thoroughly truthful person is worth infinitely more to society than is an untruthful one.

WHAT DOEST THOU HERE?

C. H. BALSBAUGH

Beloved Brother and Sister: God never made a drone. That is the devil's manufacture. He delights in drowsy heads, callous hearts and folded hands. The head works thro the body. God needs the hand and foot, the fingers and toes. None so insignificant that God has no use for him. The shyness which the brethren manifest toward that dissolute family you mention is not illustrative of I Tim. 1:15. "God is no respecter of persons." He loves the soul for its intrinsic value, no matter whether it is the soul of a harlot, or drunkard, or murderer, or whoremonger, or queen, or prince, or president. He is the author of our immortal being, and offers Himself as our redeemer, no matter how low we have sunk into the slums of iniquity. I have no greater joy than to be God's instrument to prick such a jewel out of the filth of hell. This is what the church is for—to be co-worker with God in gathering lost souls out of the dens and pits of sin and getting them ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The more we are like Christ the more will we hunger for the rescue of sinners and the more ready will we be to make sacrifice for the glory of God in saving souls. Oh brother, sister, how far the majority of our members are from that burning ardor to save sinners which prompted the Son of God to leave the glory of heaven and hang bleeding and dying on the cross for lost man! We need another pentecost to revive the apostolic spirit, and give a fresh impetus to the claims and power of the cross.